

REMARKS

This Response is filed in reply to the Office Action dated March 16, 2007, which is an Election/Restriction. The Examiner asserted that the application contains two groups of inventions related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination, noting that subcombinations are distinct if they do not overlap in scope and are not obvious variants, and if it is shown that at least one subcombination is separately usable. The Examiner asserted that the invention of Group I has separate utility as a methodology for operation of a trading exchange, while the invention of Group II has a separate utility as a financial calculation methodology by which potential costs and effective prices are determined. The groups provided by the Examiner are as follows:

Group I, claims 1-14; and

Group II, claims 15-33.

In response, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-14. Applicant notes that both Group I and Group II claims recite a “method for trading transmission rights”, which includes “receiving offers to buy and sell point-to-point transmission rights”, “calculating quantity exchange rates between offers to buy and sell transmission rights” and “matching trades to buy and sell transmission rights based on the offers to buy and sell transmission rights submitted by market participants currently valid on the network”.

While the Group II claims recite “determining a potential cost” and “providing an effective price”, these limitations of the Group II claims are in the context of the “trading of electrical transmission rights”, as set forth above for both Group I and Group II claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner’s characterization of the Groups as not overlapping in scope is mistaken. Applicant respectfully requests that the Election/Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant considers the Response herein to be fully responsive to the referenced Office Action. Based on the above Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance is requested. If there are any remaining issues or the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 617-832-1175.

Respectfully submitted,

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